

SRRTTF - Tech Track Work Group December 20, 2022 Meeting Summary

Meeting Materials– Posted under TTWG Meeting materials on TF website

1. Powerpoint presentation – see posted TTWG meeting materials
2. Draft Scope of Work for Additional Groundwater Flow Direction Evaluations
Mission Reach – Spokane River

ACTION ITEMS IN RED below

Attendees

Brandee Era-Miller, WA Dept of Ecology
Dave Dilks, LimnoTech
Lisa Dally Wilson, Dally Environmental
Alyssa Gersdorf, City of Post Falls
Jeff Donovan, City of Spokane
Holly Davies, WA Dept of Health
Joyce Duncan, LimnoTech
Jeremy Schmidt, WA Dept of Ecology
Sandy Treccani, WA Dept of Ecology
Bryce Robbert, Avista
Meghan Lunney, Avista

Ben Floyd, White Bluffs
Mike Anderson, City of Coeur d’Alene
Lara Floyd, White Bluffs
Brian Nickel, USEPA
Rob Lindsay, Spokane County
Doug Krapas, IEP
Robert Mott
Doug Austin, Chesapeake Bay Program
Vicki Barthells
Chris Moan
Ken Windram, HARSB

Summary Notes

NEXT TTWG MEETING – January 17, 10 am – noon, Pacific Time.

Study Updates

- I. Fish tissue sampling and analysis, analytical results for water column, biofilm and catchment samples: It was noted that the TF continues to wait for SGS-AXYS laboratory results from the first round of field work this summer as well as the following rounds. The status of these 2022-2023 projects are listed in the Table below.

| Project | Status |
|--|--|
| Expanded synoptic survey (plus catch basins and artesian well) | Monitoring completed, waiting on lab results |
| Sediment/biofilm | Monitoring completed, waiting on lab results |
| Long term water column trend assessment | Low flow monitoring completed, waiting on lab results Moderate flow deployment in process |
| Fish tissue trend assessment | Sampling completed by WDFW, waiting on lab results |
| GE fingerprinting | Waiting on 2022 synoptic survey lab results |

- II. Status on data logger downloads at Hamilton Street site – Formal TTWG decision to collect data from loggers in January, but leave the data loggers in place until required to be removed in April per site access agreement. Data from Nov 2021 through January 2023 will be provided to LimnoTech and analyzed as part of the Mission Reach monitoring well/water level paper study to determine groundwater flow direction. Meghan Lunney and Bryce Robbert are available to provide information to LimnoTech regarding timing of dam maintenance activities that may influence water levels in the river. They are mentioned additional water level data that is public record.
- III. Status on NCHS Project – The NCHS project budget will be reallocated and the project taken off the Task Force workplan.

New Laboratory Options and Projects to Move Forward

The TTWG discussed the practicality of selecting a new laboratory for PCB analysis using Method 1668C. Discussion on this topic is also included in the chat at the end of the meeting notes. The delays with SGS-AXYS were discussed and deemed not acceptable but the Task Force has little recourse given current contract language and the sunset date of June 30, 2023 (see meeting ppt, slide 5). The TTWG discussed laboratory options moving forward for three different projects:

1. 2nd Round, Moderate flow SPMD Sampling
2. 3rd Round, High flow SPMD Sampling
3. Confirmation Sampling and other potential projects that require future sampling

TTWG membership agreed that the 2nd round (Moderate flow) and 3rd round (High flow) SPMD sampling projects for the 2022-2023 Trend Assessment should move forward in order to complete a full year of the trend assessment. The TTWG also determined the TF should continue

using the SGS-AXYS laboratory to ensure consistency in the data for the trend assessment. It had been assumed that the Moderate flow samples would be analyzed in time to complete the report for the moderate flow period by June 30 of 2023. If that does not happen, alternative funding solutions will need to be explored. It was determined the **TTWG should do a 'check-in' during the March meeting prior to moving forward with the 3rd Round, Spring high flow deployment of SPMDs.** The check-in would be based on the performance of SGS-AXYS to date, if they have yet to deliver results from summer of 2022, the TTWG will reconsider whether to move forward with the third round, high flow SPMD sampling.

LimnoTech will prepare a Scope and Budget for the 3rd Round (High Flow)- SPMD water column sampling for 2022-2023 Trend Assessment to be reviewed by the TTWG at their January meeting with the intent to recommend this budget item for approval at the January SRRTTF meeting. Preparation of the QAPP addendum will begin once SRRTTF approves the scope of work.

The TTWG also determined that they would not pursue the laboratory/analytical portion of any future projects addressing confirmation sampling or other potential future sampling prior to TF transition/sunset. Given the TF sunset date of June 30 and the situation with current Task Force laboratory delays, the group agreed the TF would not be able to pursue the analytical portion of new projects unless Ecology ERO Water Quality could commit to follow through, funding and contract roll-over. No one from Ecology ERO Water Quality was at the meeting. The TTWG requested a January SRRTTF agenda item to address Ecology ERO Water Quality's interest and ability to commit to continuing in-progress projects after SRRTTF sunset. Ben Floyd stated he would add this to the agenda.

For now, the TTWG will keep an ongoing list and short scope of work for all projects that will not be implemented due to TF sunset. List to include other projects associated with next steps from the source assessment, additional GE well monitoring for PCBs, possibly Hamilton Street well monitoring for PCBs, additional Canine Detection work. It was noted that the canine detection work could be done prior to June 30 as it does not involve laboratory analysis.

Further discussion ensued regarding confirmation sampling. Spokane County and members of the Ecology TCP were in agreement that in identifying potential sources, the group should start in the river and use that to guide upgradient investigation. Areas where biofilm or water column samples in the Spokane River indicate higher PCB concentrations should be the focus. No attendees disagreed with this approach. Spokane County, Ecology EAP, Ecology TCP and EPA were all in support of continuing to collect data. Brian Nickel stated that for federal sites, there is a mechanism for EPA to collect new data. If the TF continues to collect data and it is found that the GE site has monitoring wells with PCB concentrations in question, EPA will consider it.

Ecology EAP made a request for the TTWG to provide a list of more fully developed scopes of work to the Task Force by June 30th in hopes that someone can pick up the project work. LimnoTech may need additional budget for scope development. There was agreement by the TTWG, in concept, to develop more detailed scopes of work prior to SRRTTF Sunset. This will also be discussed during the requested agenda item at the full SRRTTF meeting in January.

NEXT STEPS for Spokane River Historical PCB Source Assessment

1. *Mission Reach monitoring well/water level paper study to determine groundwater flow direction – SCOPE OF WORK*

Dave Dilks and Joyce Dunkin (LimnoTech) provided an overview of the scope of work distributed to the TTWG (see meeting handouts). The intent of the study is to develop a conceptual site model of groundwater flow in the direction of Mission Reach using data from existing monitoring wells. Analysis of the data from the Hamilton Street data loggers will also occur as part of this study. Two phases:

Phase I – identify well locations, elevations, and associated reports - \$23,100 (includes Hamilton Bridge MW data analysis)

Phase II – Depends upon if there are adequate data: Construct conceptual site model and/or reporting. \$5,000 - \$51,000 depending on scope.

The TTWG provided no comment or suggested changes. TTWG members asked to review scope of work and be prepared to vote to approve for recommendation to full SRRTTF at January TTWG meeting. Completion of work is dependent on approval by full TF in January 2023.

2. *GE Site Sampling at Spokane River/groundwater interface* (note- renamed per suggestion)

This project involves temporary push-point samplers at the surface water-groundwater interface at locations downgradient of the GE site. After TTWG discussion it was determined that this project could also be expanded to include (1) other interface areas where biofilm or water column samples indicate high concentrations of PCBs in Mission Reach – focusing on the south side of the river, (2) seeps, and (3) sampling of downgradient GE wells, MW-18 and MW-22 which are located on public property. If the project is expanded to additional sites a more suitable project name will be determined. Note this project would build on the GE fingerprinting study that is currently scoped and awaiting laboratory results from SGS AXYS.

Although the TTWG had determined they did not want to pursue additional project work involving laboratory analysis, this project has very strong support. It was suggested that the TF work could be done prior to June 30 to support collection of these samples if Ecology could commit to follow-through after Task Force sunset and see the project through laboratory analysis, QA/QC and assessment.

Future Project Topics

- Additional Canine Detection Work – could be done prior to June 30. To be discussed in January.

ZOOM CHAT NOTES:

10:22:17 From Jeremy Schmidt to Everyone:

Just a reminder that the data loggers need to be returned to Ecology Water quality when they are removed.

10:23:58 From Jeff Donovan to Everyone:

NCHS project was scoped as \$10,045

10:25:50 From Brandee Era-Miller to Everyone:

What are lab options again? Can you list them?

10:26:16 From Alyssa Gersdorf - City of Post Falls to Everyone:

Pacific Rim, ALS, Eurofins, etc

10:27:51 From Brandee Era-Miller to Everyone:

Do we have a list of accredited labs for 1668? How about SGS-Wilmington? SGS-AXYS is behind on other Ecology work as well. I think it is a resource issue.

10:28:18 From Alyssa Gersdorf - City of Post Falls to Everyone:

SGS Axys has told Post Falls they don't have the staff to do work currently.

10:29:05 From Jeff Donovan to Everyone:

if you search 1668c here, it has the list of ECY accredited labs:

<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/laboratorysearch/SearchMethod.aspx>

10:32:23 From Brandee Era-Miller to Everyone:

As long as the lab uses an SPB-Octyl column and their detection limits are decent, then we should be good. Pacific Rim doesn't use the SPB-Octyl column. I've heard good things about SGS-Wilmington. I've had issues with ALS in the past. Don't know about Eurofins or the other labs on the accreditation list.

10:32:58 From Robert Mott; Mott Consulting, LLC to Everyone:

Do the two SGS labs have similar background issues? How about the other labs under consideration? Do the other labs have staffing time delay issues?

10:34:07 From Brandee Era-Miller to Everyone:

We should have Limnotech look at detection limits for all the labs using SPB-Octyl columns.

10:34:26 From Robert Mott; Mott Consulting, LLC to Everyone:

Are seasonal flu, RSV and Covid reasons for staff shortages? If so, why would there be the expectation of other labs not being impacted similarly?

10:35:32 From Jeff Donovan to Everyone:

May be more limited too on the number of labs that can handle the SPMD samples I'm thinking? Or can all labs work with those?

10:43:39 From Brandee Era-Miller to Everyone:

Does collecting data in the river only mean that the TF won't follow-up on sampling that helps determine sources to the river?

11:04:46 From Sandy Treccani to Everyone:

Agreed with Jeremy.

11:09:16 From Robert Mott; Mott Consulting, LLC to Everyone:

An observation, this conversation would be aided if there were an affirmative commitment from Ecology to continue work initiated by the Task Force.

11:29:34 From Robert Mott; Mott Consulting, LLC to Everyone:

I think we routinely assume that within a losing reach that there are no sources for gaining. Further, we typically use the simplifying assumption the gaining concentrations

are the same as the losing concentrations. I believe both assumptions are incorrect and may be hiding sources.